

Speak up & be heard

CONSUMER REGISTER lists summaries of major consumer proposals before Federal agencies. If you wish to submit written comments, include your name & address, state the name & *Federal Register* citation of the proposal on which you are commenting and explain your views briefly & clearly.

Mail delivery

Postal Service is now considering applications for delivery service to mobile home communities & small towns that do not have such service now.

To apply for mail delivery, a community or mobile home subdivision must have at least 2,500 population or 750 possible delivery stops. Suitably paved or improved streets, walkways & mail receptacles must also be provided before approval of service by the Regional Postmaster General.

Former requirements stated that communities must have at least \$10,000 annually in postal receipts. This requirement is now waived.

Applications for such service should be sent to the Regional Postmaster General in each postal area; the address is available at any post office.

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 15, page 24182.

Pet turtles

Health, Education & Welfare Dept. has introduced measures to assure that small turtles, tortoises & terrapins, purchased mostly as pets, will no longer pose a health danger.

Effective Dec. 18, regulations adopted by HEW will (1) provide a general prohibition on the importation of small pet turtles of all kinds & (2) establish a system for assuring that small turtles shipped interstate are free from infectious disease.

HEW's action follows investigations showing that turtles are a significant source of salmonella, a bacteria which can cause abdominal pain, nausea, fever & diarrhea & may require hospitalization. The investigations have shown that an estimated 280,000 cases of salmonella poisoning, most of them involving children, are caused annually by these pets. It is estimated that 15 million small turtles are sold in this country every year.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 7, page 7005; Nov. 18, page 24670; CONSUMER REGISTER: May 15.

Whey out

Agriculture Dept. has withdrawn a proposed standard that would have allowed the use of small amounts of whey in Grade A butter.

Agriculture said that the American Butter Institute, which represents a majority of the industry, wants a more complete study of existing Grade A butter standards before a decision is made on possible changes. Thus, Agriculture plans an extensive review of the standard.

Details—*Federal Register*: Oct. 7, page 21331; Nov. 21, page 24759.

ICC may waive rules in individual cases

Interstate Commerce Commission has reconsidered the case of Mrs. Grace Polk Stern of Chevy Chase, MD. She wanted to submit her comments on an Aug. 2 pro-

posal (that ICC investigate household moving companies) without providing the 15 copies required by ICC regulations.

In its latest ruling, ICC again rejected Mrs. Stern's contention that the 15-copy requirement imposed an unreasonable burden; however, it did agree to accept comments on that proposal from her & anyone else without 15 copies being filed.

In future matters before it, ICC said it will consider exceptions to the 15-copy rule according to individual situations. [If you seek exception to the 15-copy rule in submitting comments in the future, you should attach to your comments a note requesting the commission to waive the requirement because of the hardship on you to make, or to have made, 15 copies of your comments.]

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 2, page 15466; Nov. 7, page 24799; CONSUMER REGISTER: Nov. 15.

Mail fraud

Postal Service has ordered that by Dec. 22 all mail intended to solicit money but which could be mistaken for a bill or invoice must be clearly labeled.

This type of mail to solicit money must state on the envelope "THIS IS NOT A BILL" in boldface capital letters of a color that contrasts with the background color & with other type used. The size of this statement must be at least 30-point type (0.42 inch).

Other requirements include the following disclaimer on the bill itself in boldface capital letters no smaller than 18-point type (1/4 inch): "THIS IS A SOLICITATION. YOU ARE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO PAY UNLESS YOU ACCEPT THIS OFFER."

Details—*Federal Register*: Oct. 13, page 21641; Nov. 22, page 24825; CONSUMER REGISTER, Nov. 1.

Labeling change

Federal Trade Commission has amended an example clarifying its rule on care labeling of textile wearing apparel. This rule requires clothing to be permanently labeled with proper care instructions.

As originally written, the care labeling example in question stated: "Dry clean only. Do not use petroleum solvents, or the coin operated method of drycleaning." From now on, this example will read simply: "Dry clean only."

Although this language serves only as an example & FTC expects manufacturers to develop appropriate label instructions on their own, the agency made this modification in response to drycleaners, who thought the example was biased against both professional & coin-operated drycleaning establishments.

The amended label example applies to clothes made on & after Nov. 22.

Details—*Federal Register*: July 11, 1972, page 13560; Nov. 22, page 24815.

Coupons

Food & Drug Administration has postponed indefinitely the effective date of its regulations governing coupons making savings representations for foods, drugs & cosmetics. Coupons are covered by FDA's overall regulation adopted last December to control savings representations made on packages & labels of foods, drugs & cosmetics. In addition to coupons, the regulations cover "cents-off," "economy-size," "2-for-1" & "1-cent sale" promotions.

Commissioner of Food & Drugs ordered postponement of the effective date of the coupon part (which does not affect the effective date of other regulated promotions) because of legal challenges by Grocery Manufacturers of America Inc., a trade association, & some companies. They have asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia & for the Ninth Circuit to review FDA's refusal to hold more hearings on regulation of coupons. FDA denied the requests for more hearings on July 15.

The courts' decisions will determine when or if the coupon regulation becomes effective. The original effective date was March 15, 1972.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 30, 1971, page 25219; July 15, page 13976; Nov. 22, page 24815; *CONSUMER NEWS*: Dec. 15, 1971; *CONSUMER REGISTER*: Aug. 15.

Flammability

Dec. 28 is deadline for comments on a Commerce Dept. view that it may be necessary to establish flammability standards for upholstered furniture & fabrics that could be used to upholster furniture.

National Bureau of Standard's Flammable Fabrics Accident & Testing System showed a detailed analysis of 130 fires involving upholstered furniture.

In 93 of the 130 incidents studied, the fire started in or on upholstered furniture. Of 118 persons involved, 74 were injured & 33 of them died. A total of 91 of the 118 were involved because of their own or someone else's smoking.

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 29, page 25239. Consumers who wish to comment on whether commerce should seek such standards should send their comments & suggestions to Assistant Secretary for Science & Technology, Room 3862, Commerce Dept., Washington, DC 20230.

Health insurance

Dec. 28 is deadline for comments on a Health, Education & Welfare Dept. proposal to extend Medicare payments to eligible consumers in cases where workmen's compensation does not cover all medical & hospital services.

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 29, page 25240. Send comments to Commissioner of Social Security, Health, Education & Welfare Dept., 4th & Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20201.

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Drugs

Food & Drug Administration is proposing to withdraw the following drugs from the market. Each has been evaluated by the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council Drug Efficacy Study Group. The academy reports questioned the claimed effectiveness of these prescription drugs:

- PMB-200 tablets, PMB-400 tablets, Milpren-200 tablets, Milpren-400 tablets & drugs containing conjugated estrogens with meprobamate.

- Certain steroid preparations for oral use including those containing prednisone, prednisolone, methylprednisolone, dexamethasone or cortisone acetate, each in combination with other active ingredients.

- Antacids with anticholinergics, including Modutrol tablets, Estomul tablets, Estomul liquid, Alzinox compound tablets & Magna.

- Strascogesic tablets, a preparation containing acetaminophen, salicylamide, amphetamine phosphate & methylatropine nitrate.

Manufacturers or others who believe that these drugs should continue to be prescribed have until Dec. 28 to request a hearing by writing to Hearing Clerk, Health, Education & Welfare Dept., 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Details—*Federal Register*: July 11, page 13562; Sept. 7, page 18105; Nov. 28, page 25183; Nov. 29, page 25247; *CONSUMER REGISTER*: Oct. 15.

Flood insurance

Federal Housing Administration will now require flood insurance on 1 to 4 family dwellings with FHA-insured mortgages under the following conditions:

- The house is located in a special flood hazard area designated by the Secretary of Housing & Urban Development.

- The first floor elevation is less than one foot above a specified maximum elevation in the flood area.

Information on areas to be included within the special flood hazard areas can be obtained from the Federal Insurance Administration, Housing & Urban Development Dept., Washington, DC 20410.

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 29, page 25231.

First aid kits

Jan. 24 is deadline for comments on a Federal Aviation Agency proposal to upgrade & change requirements for first aid kits on airplanes.

The proposal would require

- One standard kit for all airlines that would contain a leg splint & an arm splint for fractures & materials to treat cuts & burns;

- A given number of kits for each plane depending on the number of seats available.

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 25, page 25052. Send comments to Federal Aviation Administration, Office of the General Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket, AGC24, 800 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20591.

